

trade" policies, than Ohio. And, on a personal note, as a longtime northern Ohio Teamster leader, there aren't many Local unions that have been decimated, the way 416 has, by NAFTA.

And on another point of personal privilege, I want to say that American workers, not just here in Cleveland but all over the country, have had no better friend, no greater ally, than Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Some folks here are probably too young to remember the NAFTA Accountability Act back in the mid-90s. That was Marcy Kaptur shining a legislative light on the NAFTA disaster even as the jobs were staring to flow south.

That's why this field hearing is so important and that's why the renegotiation of NAFTA is an historic opportunity.

So I want to spend a couple of minutes on how we can overhaul the NAFTA to begin to repair the damage. Specifically, I want to describe some things that must be included in a new NAFTA, new Chapters, as well as some old parts of NAFTA that must come out.

But let me be really clear at the outset: if the Trump trade team does not renegotiate NAFTA in a thorough way that works for workers, then the US should quit the deal altogether.

I can't speak for the other folks on this panel today, but the Teamsters demand a complete overhaul of the NAFTA model. No cut-n-paste of the Trans-Pacific-Partnership, no tweaking around the edges. We want a NAFTA upgrade that puts in interests of working families first and foremost.

To achieve this goal, the top priority has to be a new Labor Rights Chapter to replace the weak and unenforceable side agreement added to NAFTA to get Congress to support ratification in 1993.

When it comes to North American worker rights, we've got to level the playing field, so Mexican workers and union organizers have the same rights we take for granted up here. That will reduce the incentive for corporations to relocate jobs down there, if they can't oppress labor or avoid collective bargaining.

The new NAFTA must prohibit child labor and forced labor and protect the freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively through independent unions. Further, those fundamental labor rights must be enforceable by the same or better trade sanctions that protect commercial interests.

Moreover, a truly modernized NAFTA should establish a process to determine basic living wage rates in all regions of all free countries and an enforcement mechanism to guarantee a decent standard of living, including to save for retirement.

All these basic labor rights and the sanctions that protect them and the commitment to living wage must be enforced by an independent tri-national labor secretariat that can hear labor cases and resolve them on behalf of all workers, including migrant workers.

Last point on labor: this new NAFTA chapter will serve as a template for future negotiations, so it is crucial that America get it right this time.

Another new chapter that must be part of the NAFTA replacement model is Currency. One of the reasons we could not support the TPP was the previous administration refused to include enforceable disciplines against currency manipulation.

America has learned the hard way how our trading partners manage their currencies against the dollar to increase their exports to us (and limit imports from us), which increases our trade deficits, which costs American jobs. We're not saying that Mexico or Canada is currently manipulating their currencies. But we are saying that a replace-

ment trade model that we will support must finally address the issue of currency misalignment.

Let me finish by mentioning a couple bad NAFTA provisions that must come out during renegotiation.

The first is Government Procurement, which is NAFTA chapter 10. It has undermined "Buy American" laws by requiring the federal government to treat foreign bidders as if they were US bidders. To Buy American is to Hire American; that's how it works, and we want our jobs back and our tax dollars spent at home.

Going into these new NAFTA talks, the U.S. should retract all procurement commitments that undermine responsible bidding standards and all domestic or local preferences. Teamsters and taxpayers from both sides of the partisan divide support "Buy American"—and we don't want the new NAFTA to weaken that economic policy, especially as we look forward to the infrastructure investment that this country needs so badly.

The second thing that must come out is the controversial system of private corporate courts that protect foreign investors. NAFTA's chapter 11 introduced so-called "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS) into our "free trade" deals, giving foreign companies superior rights over U.S. firms.

ISDS undermines the rule of law and facilitates offshoring by creating unique privileges and secretive arbitration chambers in which foreign investors, but not American firms, can challenge laws the claim will cut profits.

A third bad provision, of particular interest to the Teamsters, is in Chapter 12, which deals with trade in services. The old NAFTA opened up American highways to unsafe Mexican-domiciled long-haul carriers.

We and our allies like Advocates for Highway Safety, the Sierra Club and the Owner-Operator Independent Truckers, have fought for many years, in the Congress and in the courts, to keep that provision from being fully implemented.

The original intent of the NAFTA negotiators was to keep US interstates closed to Mexican carries until the safety of the trucks and drivers could be certified. That never happened. Accordingly, we call on the new NAFTA RE-negotiators to end this controversy once and for all. The new NAFTA should require Mexican-domiciled trucks to transfer their loads to US trucks in the 20 mile wide border commercial zone.

In conclusion, I have named two new chapters that must be included in NAFTA 2.0 and three bad aspects that must come out—five reforms that will keep and create middle class jobs and help America lead the way towards a new trade policy program, a template for all future international commercial agreements.

But, seeing as we are enjoying the hospitality of our UAW brothers and sisters here in Local 1250, I want to mention one last NAFTA fix.

The Rules of Origin for autos and auto parts should be beefed up. The "regional value content" should be raised and all loopholes closed. In order to enjoy the low tariffs and NAFTA market access, all cars and trucks that are made in the three countries should not have components that are made in other countries where wages are suppressed by companies that oppress workers and pay them less than their labor is worth.

That solidarity is what this opportunity is all about. Autoworkers and Steelworkers and Machinists and Teamsters, the labor unions that have had the worst experience under NAFTA and now have the greatest stake in real overhaul in its renegotiation. We must stand in solidarity with our broth-

ers and sisters in the independent unions in Canada and Mexico. And, in turn, all of labor must stand in solidarity with environmental activists, consumer advocates and the family farmers.

Together, we have been fighting NAFTA and its expansion for a generation. Now we can work together, with our allies in Congress, to finally fix it.

Thank You

#### HONORING JIM POWELL ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Jim Powell, of Johnson City, Tennessee, for his 80th birthday.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Jim has devoted his life to many worthy endeavors, such as helping students achieve their dreams of attending college.

Growing up, Jim never dreamed of going to college until a teacher helped him apply for a scholarship to the University of Tennessee. Eleven years later, Jim and his wife, Sandy, opened Powell Construction Company, which has been successfully operating for the past 48 years and employs more than 500 people.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the kind encouragement of Jim's teacher. In an effort to pay that kindness forward, Jim created the Powell Foundation, which has provided over 4,000 scholarships to the University of Tennessee and to East Tennessee State University.

Our community is a better place to live and work because of Jim and Sandy Powell. Jim exemplifies the Volunteer spirit. I commend him for his selfless contributions to east Tennessee, and wish him nothing but the best on his 80th birthday.

Happy birthday, Jim.

#### HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

(Mr. GOMEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of one of my constituents, Michelle Vo, who lost her life in Sunday's mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Michelle was described by her friends and family as an ambitious, hard worker, known for her charisma and fierce independence. She embodied the American Dream in every single way. Her middle name, My, means "America" in Vietnamese.

Her mother emigrated from Vietnam and raised Michelle and her sisters near San Jose. Michelle would go on to graduate from UC Davis before moving to Eagle Rock, in my district, to work as an insurance agent in nearby Pasadena.

My heart goes out to Michelle Vo, her family and friends, and the other victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

I am heartbroken and angry about the events in Las Vegas. These incidents are far too common in our country, and it is my sincere hope that Congress takes action to lessen these types of tragic events.

#### OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS RUN TO DANGER, NOT AWAY FROM IT

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the Nation stands in mourning over the tragedy in Las Vegas. No one ever wants to be in that situation. But it, once again, reminds us that, when there is danger, our law enforcement officers run to it, not away from it.

We are going to hear many stories from that tragedy in Las Vegas, but many of them will concern those brave law enforcement officers who, at the risk of their own life, protected and saved the lives of many, many others.

So, as we mourn the tragedy in Las Vegas, let us always remember and be thankful for those law enforcement officers who protect us each and every day.

#### DREAMERS ARE AMERICANS TOO

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Leonardo Reyes of Salem, Oregon, and urge Speaker RYAN to put forth a clean Dream Act bill.

Leo is an undocumented Oregonian. His mother brought Leo and his siblings to Oregon when he was 10 years old. His mother was a victim of domestic violence and felt she needed to get as far away from her husband as possible to keep Leo and his siblings safe. His mother left everything she knew in Mexico in order to pursue a better life for her children.

Leo has attended Davis Elementary School, Reynolds Middle School, McKay High School, graduated from Chemeketa Community College, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at Western Oregon University.

He works full-time helping senior citizens and individuals with disabilities access healthcare and food benefits. Additionally, Leo was a cofounder of the Oregon DACA Coalition, which raises awareness in the community by empowering Oregon youth to engage in our democratic process.

Leo considers himself an American, and I do too. He believes that being an American is a set of values and ideals which we all hold dear.

We need to pass a clean Dream Act bill that will recognize Leo and over

800,000 DREAMers as equal members in our community.

#### COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time we go after the perpetrators of on-line sex trafficking. A recent investigation revealed what I have been saying for years, that websites like backpage.com knowingly facilitate human trafficking due to existing law which has been wrongly interpreted and allows these sites to get away without criminal liability.

That is why I am cosponsoring legislation to specifically allow States to investigate and prosecute websites that facilitate sex trafficking. H.R. 1855 is bipartisan legislation that will empower law enforcement to combat on-line sex trafficking more effectively.

This is an important step forward in the fight to end the suffering of 12-, 13-, and 14-year-old girls and boys—children—who are the victims of sex trafficking.

So, Mr. Speaker, law enforcement needs more tools to put an end to the heinous practice of exploitation and modern-day slavery, and clamping down on backpage.com's ability to advertise young girls for sex is crucial and critical to holding them accountable.

#### IT IS TIME TO REAUTHORIZE THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in 1997, with a very, very bipartisan budget reconciliation deal, we passed a magnificent statement about this Nation's commitment to children, and that was the Children's Health Insurance Program that all of us were so very proud of. It started in 1997 as the first real health reform since Medicare and Medicaid, and millions of children were able to get healthcare. Maybe at that time their parents could not, but they could be covered: children with sickle cell, children with heart defects, children with various hereditary or genetic diseases who were impacted, children with cancer, leukemia, all of these children, or children injured on a playing field, children could be covered.

It is time to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program. In fact, I call upon the leadership to be able to establish martial law so that we can pass the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program coming this week before we go home.

The Democrats have been pushing. The leadership of the Democrats have been pushing. They have been asking for the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

I can tell you that those, Mr. Speaker, impacted by the hurricanes, they need that healthcare. I ask for its passage.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDERS ARE AMERICANS TOO

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, Hurricanes Irma and Maria have wreaked havoc on the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and numerous Caribbean nations. Although the full extent of the two hurricanes' impact has yet to be assessed, it is clear that the damage from these storms is unparalleled.

The people of the Virgin Islands have lost their homes and possessions. Business has been lost, along with hospitals, schools, and utility systems.

In the coming months, I ask that all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle approve the full amount of funding and support needed for short- and long-term relief.

For example, tomorrow, the Energy and Commerce Committee will consider legislation to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program for 5 years. I ask my colleagues to remember the people and children of the Virgin Islands.

Just over one-third of the children of the Virgin Islands lived below the poverty level even prior to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. After the hurricanes, our antipoverty needs will grow exponentially.

We need Medicaid and CHIP provisions to provide the Virgin Islands with additional funding and higher rates of Federal matching funds so that poor Americans and children in the Virgin Islands can remain covered. This, in addition to further changes to Federal program requirements, will help the Virgin Islands with the resources it needs to build.

So I urge my colleagues to please remember that Virgin Islanders are Americans too, just the same as constituents elsewhere across the country.

#### GOING FORWARD AS AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things on the minds of Americans: three hurricanes in a month, disasters in Houston, Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands. We just heard our colleague from the Virgin Islands speak of the problems that that island has. Millions of Americans harmed in so many ways, lives lost, just yesterday, the tragedy in Las Vegas.

It is hard not to focus only on those issues, but in many, many ways, Las